



Board Members Met with U.S. General Accounting Office

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) held a meeting with the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) on June 9.

The GAO issued a report in April 2000 titled "Nuclear Waste Cleanup – DOE's Paducah Plan Faces Uncertainties and Excludes Costly Cleanup Activities." In response to a mandate from Congress, the GAO team spoke with CAB members to determine what progress the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has made in cleaning up the Paducah site, how funding allocated for cleanup is being spent and to identify actions DOE has taken to address the cleanup challenges outlined in the 2000 report.

Board members expressed their concern that many projects have been held up in disputes between DOE, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Environmental Protection Agency. CAB members discussed many concerns, including lack of funding, cylinder relocation, groundwater contamination, decontamination, and decommissioning activities, and a proposed Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) on-site hazardous waste disposal facility.

CAB members explained to the GAO team that over the past year and a half, communications between DOE and the board have been hindered due to the disputes and to the lack of an Accelerated Cleanup Plan. As a result, the level of public participation has decreased. Members emphasized that open communication between DOE and the CAB is necessary for the board to make sound recommendations.

The GAO team said they intend to issue a report outlining their findings from the meeting with the CAB as well as meetings with other area stakeholders.



Community Leaders Attend Task Force Meeting

Many of the community's leaders attended the Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force meeting on June 11.

The task force has begun a review and study of the end state of the Paducah site. The Citizens Advisory Board asked the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to provide them with upcoming priority projects so that they could be added to the board's annual workplan. DOE asked the group to develop a preferred end state vision from the standpoint of the public.

In an effort to effectively represent stakeholders, the task force invited several area leaders to their June meeting. Representatives from the City of Paducah, McCracken County, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky attended the meeting. Other organizations such as Active Citizens for Truth (ACT), the Coalition for Health Concerns, Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization, and the Greater Paducah Economic Development Council were also in attendance.

The majority of those present stated that reindustrialization of the site would most benefit the community. Danny Orazine, McCracken County Judge Executive, and Bill Paxton, Mayor of Paducah, expressed their hopes of bringing jobs to the area. Others expressed their concern that reindustrialization will mean other nuclear industries will move into the area, possibly

bringing more health concerns to plant neighbors. Ruby English, ACT, agreed that there is a need for jobs in Western Kentucky, but the primary concern should be the health and welfare of those who live near the plant.

The task force is actively working to gather information with a goal of making a recommendation to DOE. Please see Task Force Update on the back page for meeting dates and times.



Tim Kreher, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bill Tanner, board member, discuss the end state of the Paducah site at a Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force meeting.

PGDP Citizens Advisory Board

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DOE Lexington Office Approved

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced approval of a Lexington office to manage cleanup activities for both the Paducah and Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plants.



Bill Murphie, DOE, has been appointed to manage both Paducah and Portsmouth.

Bill Murphie, who has been appointed to manage the Paducah and Portsmouth Project Office, will have direct contact with DOE Headquarters located in Washington, D.C. Previously, the facilities had been managed through Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Having an office in Lexington, as opposed to a local site office, raises concern among board members. Bill Tanner said "there will be fewer and fewer DOE personnel on site to initiate cleanup work, which raises serious concerns as what will be cleaned up and how well it will be done."

The Lexington office was selected because it is located at an equal distance between the two plants.

Task Force Update

The **Water Task Force** has begun to discuss the dispute between regulators and DOE regarding the North-South Diversion Ditch. The group continues to monitor the progress of the Six-Phase Treatability Study and the renewal of the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. This task force, as it pertains to ground and surface water, is developing an end state vision of the Paducah site. The Water Task Force meets the first Friday of the month at noon in the CAB office.

The **Waste Operations Task Force** is now taking an in-depth look at the dispute between regulators and DOE regarding the North-South Diversion Ditch. The group is concerned that ongoing disputes are causing delay in remediation of the ditch. The task force continues to monitor activities at the C-746-U Solid Waste Landfill. The Waste Operations Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force** is focusing primarily on developing an end state vision for the Paducah site. The group has taken steps to involve local community leaders in the information gathering process. The task force anticipates making a recommendation to DOE on this issue. The Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force meets on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Nomination, Membership and Public Involvement Subcommittee** has recently decided to begin recruitment for future members. Applications will be accepted until September 30. Accepted applications will be placed in a membership pool to await future vacancies. Please call (270) 554-3004 or visit our web site for an application.

An **Ad Hoc Committee for Chairs Meeting Preparation** was recently established. The committee was formed to prepare for the national Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Boards Chairs Meeting, which Paducah will host on September 25-27, 2003.